



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 927
Fairfax, VA 22035-1118



For Immediate Release

Judy Pedersen, PIO
E-mail: parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov
Press Inquiries: 703-324-8662

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Braddock History Comes to Life at Oak Hill Festival

Working closely with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, the Fairfax County Park Authority is pleased to co-sponsor "A Look Back at Braddock Project" focused on "Finding Braddock's True Gold." This free program, a celebration of local history, is slated for Saturday, October 6th from noon to 5 p.m. at historic Oak Hill located at 4716 Wakefield Chapel Road in Annandale. A brief opening ceremony will be held at noon.

Oak Hill is a privately owned 18th century Georgian-style home that was preserved in October 2004 when the Board of Supervisors, Park Authority Board and Northern Virginia Conservation Trust negotiated the purchase of an historic easement from Seville Homes. The home and adjacent properties are all that remain of the Fitzhugh land grant – totaling almost 22,000 acres – dating from the 1680s. This was one of three plantations owned by the Fitzhugh family and today the original home remains intact along with much of the historic landscape, including 200-year-old boxwoods. As part of the agreement, limited public access to the site is provided.

Spearheaded by Braddock District Supervisor Sharon Bulova and the A Look Back at Braddock Task Force, the event is a family festival that highlights one of the oldest homes in Fairfax County. Enjoy free ice cream sundaes on the lawn, bluegrass music by the Andrew Acosta Band and a chance to view the interior of this unique home. You'll hear speakers on the history of Oak Hill as well as oral histories from former Oak Hill residents. Other activities include Civil War drills and camp life living history with the 42nd Virginia Infantry, a 19th century classroom experience as well as fall themed arts and crafts for children. This event is part of this year's commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, Va., the first permanent English settlement in the Americas.

Supervisor Bulova, a strong advocate of historic preservation noted, "Taking the time to celebrate our past is vital to building and maintaining a strong sense of community. Braddock District is rich in history and looking back gives us perspective not just about those things which were important then, but what is important to us today."

Handicapped parking is available onsite, as well as limited street parking. Visitors are encouraged to park offsite at 4414 Holborn Avenue at the Nancy Sprague Technology Center (the former Chapel Square Elementary School) in Annandale. A free shuttle bus service will provide visitors with convenient transportation. For more information contact the Braddock District Supervisors' Office at 703-425-9300, TTY 711 or visit online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/.

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703-324-8700 • TTY: 703-803-3354 • ONLINE: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks • E-MAIL: parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov



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